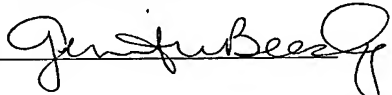


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant : BARBE, Serge  
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Commissioner for Patents  
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<p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10</b></p> <p align="center">Date of Deposit: <u>January 11, 2006</u></p> <p align="center">Express Mail No.: <u>ED 886401950 US</u></p> <p align="center">I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop PCT, Attn: PCT Legal, Commissioner for Patents, on the date indicated above.</p> <p align="center"><u>Jennifer Beasley</u> </p>
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.

Each section begins on a separate sheet in accordance with the revised format practice.